

n after an eight months existence? Another pertinence

question intrudes itself upon my mind. The *Islander* adopts as its farewell motto "I am dying Egypt, dying." Antony met his death through his love for Cleopatra; what woman killed the *Islander*? that they should adopt the dying words of the famous general.

X.

The Water Supply.

MR. EDITOR:—Much has been written, and more

Homicide from Nunavut valley, and the apparent duty of "the powers that be" in relation thereto. Of course I have heard but a fraction of what has been said—probably have not read all that has been published upon the subject; but so far as my knowledge of the matter goes, there remains much which might be said, perhaps with propriety written.

I have seen nor heard in the discussion any allu-

upon the stream—the source of which is at the head of the valley, and the sum of which has the most of the time for years past gone through the "reservoir" to help make up the supply for the city.

Ice has now unquestionably become a fixed institution of Honolulu, and will remain so as long as Honolulu has institutions worth preserving. It is an institution which like all others in the kingdom of any importance, has struggled years for a foot hold, an existence, and like them has cost some of its friends much money, much anxiety, much mental and physical labor. It is an institution which cannot be made to furnish all that is required of it in this place except by a large outlay of capital;—capital has been furnished—buildings, machinery, fixtures and apparatus—set in place, and in use.

the community—has received their full share, and their support.

There are two things troubling me. The first is the unwillingness of the manufacturer for capital invested with a handsome interest on the investment; has this willing, pasting, and grubbing community live-to-day? No sir! And why not? As I have said before, the machinery is in place, and in place, such as paper, houses, fuel, carts, wheelbarrows, all the things of nice filtered rain, but it will not run. It will not run unless there is water. There is no water here, no water (at this writing) to move the machinery.

I have seen nor heard in this discussion any allusion to the fact that a rice mill has been located for some years upon the same stream just above mid-level, and in constant operation the year round, and that the supply of water is abundant, and that the mill has invested a large amount of capital in this kingdom, both in this country, having no less than four of the largest rice plantations under cultivation, employing a large number of men—all this machinery—employing schooners, drays, &c., &c. upon the same stream, and yet, the rice mill, and those greatly aiding it as principal industry of the country by furnishing the principal staple of food for the laboring population, and the principal source of revenue to the principal estate, and who sell the exports of the

they have water to keep their machinery running. This firm have also their buildings, machinery, stores and store-houses, schools, teams and employees all in place; animals and men feed, the latter under pay, work or play; and is their machinery running? No, it is not. It is not because of the drought. No sir. And why not? Simply and solely because there isn't a penny enough in the Treasury to move it! In other words, because somebody was so short-sighted as to permit somebody's cows to eat and rear a holt in the prairie and let the water out.

Do not remember to hear me out, lately. If even, the situation is not so serious as it seems. The alternative—the "sons of the soil"—who by themselves or their ancestors have with great labor, and no little skill prepared in a style peculiarly their own their freeholds in which they have planted, watered, and cultivated perhaps to near maturity their "sift and sown" crops, and who have been so long and so beheld their baked and cracked "lois," and contemplate, not only the loss of labor in cultivating the present crop, but the more serious fact that themselves and families are to again be deprived of

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The Governor-General says the Adjutant-General was only a messenger, and that he was not the only member of the Council. On the first of September, by the proclamation of the Royal Charter, the swearing in of the Governor, and the gazing of the chief officials. It remains only to appoint the Legislative and Executive Councils. The Governor has invited the colonists recommended to him the names of four members form the Legislative Council, and His Excellency could have given as strong proof of his desire to co-operate with the people. The Charter provides that there shall be not less than two members in this Council, but the Governor considers it better to have the advice and assistance of four. It is anxious that these four should command the confidence, and be competent to inform him of the wishes of those over whom he is placed. The colonists of Fiji are to be congratulated on the spirit which they are thus met. Six months ago the English and some of the colonial papers were crying out against them as kidnappers, slave-dealers,

two millions of natives over the country of the United States, and the Government is now making a plan to do these things. He is now here to tell these owners, and to tell the planters and people that he wishes any publicly he thinks the charges unjust. He says plainly of a "certain amount of race prejudice unavoidable in every community," but also of having "no objection to the employment of any race of natives, who could do credit to any State." One who knows Fiji and its settlers will not be surprised at Sir Arthur's good opinion, but they will be surprised to find it so cordially and so unconditionally supported and his character vouched for so high an authority.

At the close of the day, the Governor met some three hundred of the settlers, and addressed them in a lengthy speech, in which he explained the reasons for his invitation to the public to consider whether it would be desirable the Government alone should conduct importation as in the West Indies. In that case the Government would be responsible for the natives they required, and the Government could arrange to get coolies from India if the supply from the West Indies was insufficient. They must keep up their minds that the cost of Polynesian labour would be materially increased by the reductions the Government would feel bound to impose. He then asked the settlers to consider for them to say, then, whether coolie labour could not be less costly. Each coolie would cost about £20 and £25, and the Government would pay the wages would be 5d per day with rations, 10d without. Their engagements would be for 12 months, renewable for a further 12 months. The settlers are engaged for 10 to 15 years, and were in many respects less desirable. The supply of natives would be practically unlimited, and the Government would be enabled to do away of their introduction, to be destroyed by an import duty on produce.
